



COMMANDO

Any Time, Any Place

Vol. 55, Issue 5

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Feb. 3, 2006



Photograph by Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes

Up, up and away

Chris Natali, telephone and cable maintenance mechanic from the 16th Communications Squadron, removes mud and water from a communications manhole Tuesday in preparation for a job. See the full article on the base telephone and maintenance shop on page 10.

Security cameras installed at dorms

by Airman 1st Class
James Dickens
Editor

The base housing office has taken steps to install cameras at base dormitories to protect Airmen and their belongings.

More than \$650,000 was set aside from fallout money for the purchase of the cameras to be installed in all Hurlburt Field dorms.

"The cameras will be a deterrent, by making people think twice before they do something dumb," said Dave Elrod, dormitory superintendent. "The cameras are active – not dummy cameras."

Areas under surveillance will be common areas, walkways, parking

lots, stairwells and entrances.

The cameras have already proved their worth in one of the dorms.

According to Mr. Elrod, a motorcycle was vandalized and investigators were able to use the video from the surveillance camera to see the person who committed the act.

"The cameras will help with the vandalism," said Airman 1st Class Danielle Morrow, 16th Communications Squadron dorm resident. "Not too long ago, someone was going around stealing antennas off of cars. Maybe it will stop this from happening."

"Although it may not prevent someone from doing something, it will help us catch them," said Mr. Elrod.



Courtesy image

A camera feed shows a person standing in a dormitory day room.

News

Col. Michael Kingsley retells the story of the first mission of Operation Desert Storm during the "Through the Eyes of a Commando" lecture series

News



File management office gets new toy

News



Base builds bridges with local clergy

Sports



MDG defeats MXG in overtime, 41-37

Wingman

0-0-1-3
0 Drinks under 21
0 DUIs
1 Drink an hour
3 Drinks a night

Weather

	High	Low
Today	66	52
Sat.	63	45
Sun.	61	40

Home of America's Air Commandos

Nurturing future, grooming Airmen for success

by Chief Master Sgt. James Erwin
407th Expeditionary SFS

ALI BASE, Iraq – What does taking care of your troops mean to you? To me, it means to give the troops everything they need to be successful.

After all, they're the Airmen who will replace today's leaders, and we owe it to them to make sure they are prepared. Troops need education, discipline, opportunities and role models.

Education is important to our young up-and-coming Airmen.

Our Airmen need mentors to be competent and confident in their duties and the lifestyle of the Air Force. The philosophy I have been brought up with is to get qualified and/or certified on your duties first and then knock out your career development courses. These simple actions make new Airmen a valuable member of the team – a member who

can be relied on to complete any task or assignment.

Challenge Airmen with the opportunity of off-duty education after they're duty-qualified and have proven themselves competent. This will benefit the Air Force and make the Airmen more productive because they're doing something for themselves. With formal education, their thinking becomes more clear and their ability to communicate is enhanced.

Troops also need discipline. When most people hear the word discipline they immediately think of the old sergeant chewing out a troop or Airman Smith standing in front of the commander's desk receiving some form of administrative action. These actions can often be avoided if supervisors are actively engaged with their troops and encourage conduct that warrants rewards instead of punishment.

It doesn't take a lot of time to give

a deserving Airman a pat on the back, type a quick thank-you note or letter of appreciation, or say, "Thanks for a job well done" in front of their peers and supervisors.

As Airmen grow, they need opportunities to enhance their skills. Some experiences are best learned from failure and serve as a test of character. Supervisors don't necessarily have to be right over the shoulder, but close enough to step in if things start to go off course, or situations move too fast for the troop.

Education, discipline and opportunities are all important, but to make sure Airmen understand the path, they need a map. They need role models. Often the role model is the immediate supervisor or trainer. Positive role models are vital for the Air Force to complete its mission and to set the tone of what is expected from troops as they grow into the Air Force family. Supervisors and leaders need to set a positive example.

16th SOW Aimpoints

- Fight and win
- Take best care of our wingmen, families and resources
- Become the next generation of Air Force and Air Commando leaders

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Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the COMMANDO is noon Monday for briefs the week of publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced. All submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call.

Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to the base commander for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the COMMANDO.

Other questions will be answered by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you and perhaps improve their process. However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give the commander a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.

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Air Commando Salute

Tech. Sgt. Martin Vera

Organization: 16th Medical Operations Squadron

Duty Title: 16th Medical Group executive staff assistant

Hometown: Roma, Texas

Hobbies: Spending time with family, reading, fishing and watching movies

Mission Contributions:

Sergeant Vera oversees all correspondence, scheduling and reviewing performance report and officer performance report packages for the 16th MDOS

commander. He also has direct oversight of appointment coding compliance, and he maintains databases to track customer satisfaction data and provider productivity.

Sergeant Vera orchestrated the cataloging of more than 20,000 patient records during the clinic transition.

(For information about how to submit an Airman for the Air Commando Salute, call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464.)



Photograph by Jamie Haig

ORI preparation

Prepare mobility bags with checklist items

Along with mobility bags, prepare a personal bag containing mission-essential items you must take based on the most probable deployment scenario.

Since a Tactical Field Exchange may not be operational at a deployed site, you should pack a 30-45-day supply of personal consumable items to help you through your initial stay.

Here are some things your unit

will require you to pack and some additional items you may wish to take when they're authorized.

Follow your unit deployment checklist for mandatory items and quantities:

- Uniform sets
- Civilian/athletic clothing
- Cold/wet weather gear
- Undergarments and socks
- Clothes hangers

- Waterproof bags
- Sunblock, lip balm, lotions and insect repellent
- Towels, washcloths and moistened towelettes
- Mirror, comb/brush, toothpaste, toothbrush, floss, shampoo, soap, razor, tissues and hygiene products
- Snacks, gum, candy, antacids, vitamins, aspirin and prescription medicines
- Extra prescription glasses and sunglasses

For a complete list of items for a personal mobility bag, see Page 6 of the Airman's Manual.

An editor's note was mistakenly placed at the end of the article indicating the Air Force and the COMMANDO didn't endorse the views expressed in the article. Our apologies to the author.

DUI Tracker



Jan. 27 – Feb. 2: 0 DUIs

This year: 2

DUIs for 2005: 31

Last DUI: 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Jan. 15

Days since last DUI:

16th OG ... 121 16th MSG ... 32
16th MXG ... 18 16th MDG ... 400

Totals are current as of Feb. 2.

Don't Drink and Drive. Call AADD at 884-8844
Potential saves this year: 61

Task Force Normandy

Iraq veteran recounts Desert Storm

by 2nd Lt. Amy Gonzales
Deputy Chief, Public Affairs

The "Through the Eyes of a Commando" living history lecture series continued Jan. 27 in the Airman Leadership School auditorium, where Col. Michael Kingsley retold the story of the first mission of Operation Desert Storm — Task Force Normandy.

Colonel Kingsley, currently the commander of the Aviation Tactics Evaluation Group at Fort Bragg, N.C., was part of the mission in which 20th Special Operations Squadron MH-53 PAVE LOWs escorted Army AH-64 Apaches into Iraq to destroy early-warning radars.

When Colonel Kingsley heard about the possibility of operations in Iraq, he didn't think he'd see the war.

"I didn't think I'd be going," he said. "Boy, was I wrong."

While it's common for today's pilots to fly in combat, it wasn't the same during the early 1990s.

"When I joined the Air Force in 1984, I joined an Air Force that was at peace," said Colonel Kingsley.

Less than five percent of pilots had combat time back then, he said.

Nonetheless, on Aug. 13, 1990, the 20th SOS arrived in Riyadh, Saudi

Arabia. A week later, they moved to King Fahd International Airport and set up a tent city.

Having eight aircrews living in tents had its ups and downs explained Colonel Kingsley.

"It was hot, but it brought us together as a team."

However, that team didn't know what it would be asked to do the next month.

The original plan for the attack, named "Instant Thunder," called for special operations ground forces to be dropped into the Iraqi desert to destroy the radar sites. However, after the plan was briefed to General Norman Schwarzkopf on Sept. 22, it was scrapped and a new plan was developed. The new plan called for four PAVE LOWs to escort eight Army Apaches into Iraq using their advanced terrain-following, terrain-avoidance radars and then have the attack helicopters destroy two radar sites with Hellfire missiles.

The crews of the 20th SOS received the mission the following week. Over the next three months, the crews rehearsed the mission six times.

On Jan. 14, 1991, Air Force special operations forces moved yet again to Al Jouf, Saudi Arabia. While there, the Airmen traded their tents for an aban-

"I fully believe this whole thing is based on teams."

Col. Michael Kingsley, Aviation
Tactics Evaluation Group
commander at Fort Bragg, N.C.

doned apartment building—but they also had some unlikely new roommates.

"One of the biggest things I remember was that there was a bazillion cats in the apartment we lived in," said Colonel Kingsley.

Cats or no cats, the teams had a mission to do. Two days after they moved into their new home, they were given the execute order.

Conventional air forces were scheduled to enter Iraq at 3 a.m. Jan. 16. That meant the special operations air forces had to destroy the early warning radar sites by 2:38 a.m. to clear the way for the rest of the aircraft.

Because the Apaches weren't as technologically advanced as the PAVE LOWs, the crews came up with a creative way for the Army choppers to update their navigation systems. The PAVE LOW crews strung together chemical lights and dropped them

out the back of the aircraft at certain points, said Colonel Kingsley. When the Apaches got over the lights, they then updated their systems.

Such ingenuity would ensure a successful mission.

"We knew that if we didn't destroy the sites on time, the early warning sites would notify Baghdad and Saddam would know we were coming," he said.

The mission went off without any major hitches and the teams successfully destroyed the sites, opening the air for the follow-on forces.

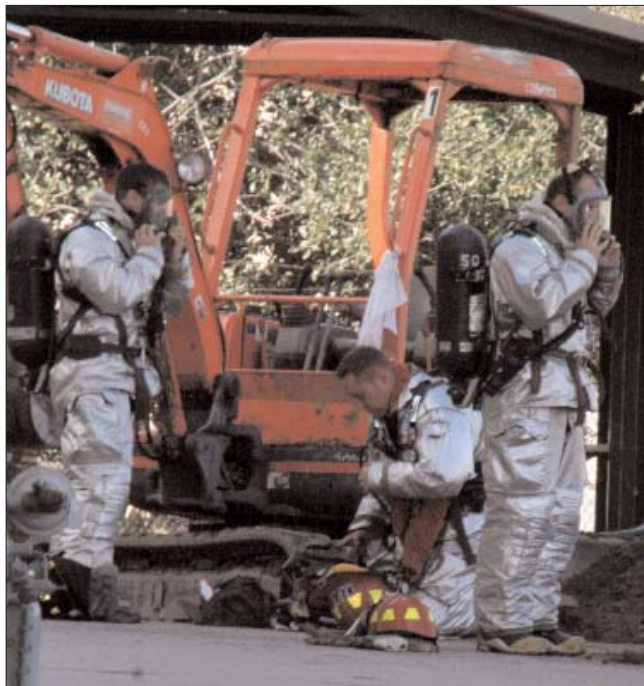
Colonel Kingsley credits the success of this mission and other special operations missions to not just the pilots who fly the aircraft, but to maintenance and support Airmen as well.

"I fully believe this whole thing is based on teams," Colonel Kingsley said. "We are one team, one fight."

Colonel Kingsley ended the presentation with a word of advice for the audience—don't stop learning about history.

"If you don't read the history, then you are doomed to failure because you'll make the mistakes again."

The next installment of the "Through the Eyes of a Commando" series is scheduled for April.



Photograph by Senior Airman Heidi Davis

'Gassy' incident

16th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire and Emergency Service Airmen remove their gas masks Monday morning after containing a gas leak, which forced the evacuation of the 19th Special Operations Squadron. The break was caused by civilian contractors who hit the natural gas line while working. 19th SOS members were able to return to the building within 30 minutes of the evacuation.

New filing systems save time

by Airman 1st Class
James Dickens
Editor

Installation of new storage equipment at base records management was completed Jan. 27 after more than three months.

The purchase and installation of the four vertical carousels in the base records storage area cost more than \$200,000.

"We've gone from having a Cessna to a F-22 fighter jet," said Roberto Rivera, base records management office. "Each carousel will hold 210 boxes of records and will double our effectiveness."

Before getting the carousels, people were forced to squeeze into the over-packed room and track down their records. This also involved climbing and lifting the boxes from the tall shelving in awkward tight areas.

People will be able to enter the record they want into a computer, and let the carousel do the work for them. The new system utilizes state-of-the-art software and automation to not only locate the record box in a fraction of the previous time required, but also delivers the box to the customer.

The 19-foot-tall carousels recaptured over half the floor space previously required by using vertical space. Imagine two cabinets facing each other with an elevator in between them. On the elevator is an automated extractor, which rides up and down removing drawers from the cabinets and delivering them to the operator.

"The old system was a safety issue," said Bill Sorrells, base records management office. "Some of the boxes weigh more than 40 pounds."



Photograph by Senior Airman Kimberly Batts

Chiefs orientation

Senior Master Sgt. William Dunem, 16th Operations Support Squadron, and other Air Force Special Operations Command chief master sergeant selects dine at The Soundside Jan. 28 during the AFSOC Chief's Orientation. The purpose of the event was to familiarize the chiefs with their new responsibilities that accompany their new rank.



Photograph by Air Force Staff Sgt. Ricky Bloom
U.S. Navy Seabee Petty Officers 3rd Class Robert Modine (left) and Jason Blanchard work to expose reinforcing rods as they help in the rescue and recovery efforts in a collapsed building in Nairobi, Kenya, Jan. 25.

Local clergy tour base, visit with chapel

by Amy Oliver
Chief, Community Relations

More than 30 local clergy members visited Hurlburt Field Jan. 26 to learn about the mission of the 16th Special Operations Wing, and how their ministries can mesh with base chaplains in support of Airmen and their families who attend church services in the local community.

"Our people deploy frequently, and for long periods, and they often face great peril, and sometimes even death," said Lt. Col. Victor Manges, 16th Mission Support Group deputy commander, in his welcoming remarks to the group.

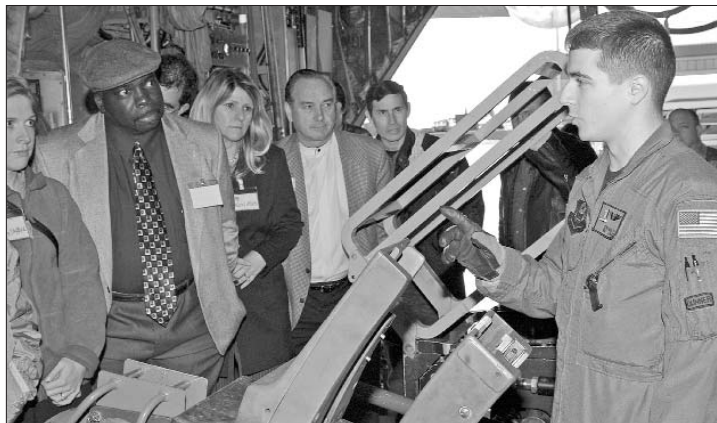
"They and their families have a great need for spiritual comfort and guidance; we depend, deeply, upon our local community pastors and churches for this critical support," he said.

Following a 16th SOW mission briefing, Tech. Sgt. Keira Jones, 16th Medical Operations Squadron, explained the various life skills and support programs offered by the family advocacy office.

Pastor Gary Jakes, First Church of the Nazarene in Fort Walton Beach, described a troubling encounter with a military spouse who came to him for aid. Unsure of the support available to him and to the spouse, he sent her back to the base for help.

Sergeant Jones explained that the base could have sent a victim's advocate to the church.

"Just learning what I did from



Photograph by Senior Airman Jessica Struble

Local clergy tour an AC-130U Spooky Gunship during a base visit Jan. 26.

Sergeant Jones about the programs available here made it worth me coming today," said Mr. Jakes. "I really struggled with that situation."

In addition to the briefings and to better explain what risks our Airmen take in performing the mission, the clergy members toured an AC-130U Spooky Gunship and visited aircrew training where they tried on night vision goggles and life support equipment.

Finally, they returned to the chapel for lunch and the main objective on the day's agenda: Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Donald Wilson talked to the group about the mission of the chapel and the areas where their help is greatly needed.

"The majority of Hurlburt Field

Airmen and their families are members of your congregations," said Chaplain Wilson. "As you've seen today, the risks our Airmen take in performing the mission creates a multitude of challenges that we can't manage alone, from depression to marital problems to suicide.

"Because of this, we implore your help to ensure these Airmen are physically, mentally, socially and spiritually prepared to face each day," Chaplain Wilson continued.

"This program helps to establish great relationships with local churches," he said. "They are in an awesome position to help us provide spiritual leadership, a moral backbone and the elements of peace and harmony for our troops and their families."

Brothers In Arms

Army

WASHINGTON – To further the development of the Future Combat Systems Program, the Army is designating a combat unit to evaluate and test cutting-edge technology. The program, the Army's modernization effort, consists of a family of 18 manned and unmanned systems, connected by a common network.

Navy

BRISBANE, Australia – A single seat F/A-18C Hornet assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron 25 and to Carrier Air Wing 14 was involved in a mishap while attempting to land on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier *USS Ronald Reagan* approximately 120 miles southeast of Brisbane, Australia, Saturday at approximately 4:17 a.m. The pilot ejected safely and was recovered. There were no injuries. The incident is currently under investigation.

Marines

WASHINGTON – The Marine Corps Special Operations Command, the newest addition to the special operations community, will be a complementary force that will ease the strain on other services' elite units and will contribute to the nation's readiness in the global war on terror. MAR-SOC will formally stand up its headquarters Feb. 24 at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Officials outline voting guidelines for overseas personnel

by Army Sgt. Sara Wood
American Forces Press
Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. service members and federal employees stationed overseas need to act quickly to request absentee ballots for this year's primary and general elections, a Department of Defense official said here Jan. 25.

This year, U.S. citizens will elect 34 senators, the entire House of Representatives, 37 state governors, and hundreds of state and local officials.

Primaries begin in March, and the general election is Nov. 7.

To participate in their

home states' elections, service members and overseas citizens need to complete a Federal Post Card Application requesting an absentee ballot, said Scott Wiedmann, Federal Voting Assistance Program deputy director. The application needs to be completed and returned as quickly as possible, to give the local election office time to mail the ballot to the citizen and then time for the ballot to be returned before the state's deadline.

"For the Federal Post Card Application, we recommend they send it in as early as possible in the year," Mr. Wiedmann said. "Anytime that they move during that year, they should send another

form in so the local election official has their address, and the ballot will get to them in a timely manner."

All service members, federal employees and their families, and U.S. citizens living overseas, are allowed to vote in their home states under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, Mr. Wiedmann said. This year's elections are especially important for service members because Congress controls many aspects of military life, such as housing, health care and retirement benefits.

"It's important for them to exercise their right to vote and cast a vote for the individual they think will represent them best," Mr.

Wiedmann said.

Federal Post Card Applications are available from military voting assistance officers, who are part of every unit, and U.S. embassies and consulates, Mr. Wiedmann said.

The forms can also be accessed on the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Web site located at www.fvap.gov.

The Web site also offers instructions on completing the form.

Service members can receive extra help from their voting assistance officers, who have access to the voting assistance guidebook, Mr. Wiedmann said. This guidebook has specific instructions for each state, including deadlines for registration and

how to fill out the application form.

The Federal Post Card Application has been improved this year, Mr. Wiedmann said.

It's sealed better, so personal information can't be seen by anyone handling it, and there is a space for citizens to include e-mail addresses so election officials can contact them quickly if there's a problem with their forms.

Generally, service members' legal state of residence is what appears on their leave and earnings statement, Mr. Wiedmann said.

Service members must vote in that state unless they move and consciously change state of residence.

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Black general fulfilled dream

by Capt. Virgil Magee
Chief, Public Affairs

The Gulf Coast has been a big contributor to America's air dominance for more than 60 years. It was also the place the first black four-star general called home.

Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James Jr., former commander in chief of North American Air Defense Command and Air Force Aerospace Defense Command, joined the Army Air Force at a time when blacks were only allowed to work as laborers and cooks.

At his childhood home near Pensacola Naval Air Station, Fla., James often dreamed of flying for the Navy, but at the time none of the military branches allowed blacks to become pilots.

He often told the story of when he was a young man, a naval officer ordered him to move to the back of the bus so he could sit down.

James later said in a speech at Morehouse College in Atlanta that he did as he was told, but said he felt ashamed of himself and vowed to never let anyone or anything stand in his way again.

After completing college at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, he became a civil-

ian instructor with the Army Air Corps Aviation Cadet Program. When the Army considered training blacks as pilots, James resigned his post and entered the program as a student.

He later graduated first in his class and received a commission as a second lieutenant.

He next completed fighter pilot combat training at Selfridge Field, Mich., and was assigned to various units in the United States for the next six years.

While the Air Force was considered "integrated," black pilots were not accepted socially or provided with equal opportunities or facilities. James became actively involved in several protests to provide equal treatment for blacks in the military.

James' career spanned the beginning and end of an era. The era opened with the establishment of the Army Air Force flying school for blacks at Tuskegee - a crack in the discrimination barrier, but not segregation.

It ended with his promotion to the highest military rank and high-level assignments. It proved that no position in the armed forces or society is closed to any person of outstanding ability and determination.

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SOUND
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CMSAF announces retirement

Courtesy of Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – The 14th chief master sergeant of the Air Force, Gerald Murray, announced plans to retire this summer after serving more than 28 years.

Chief Murray has served as the chief master sergeant of the Air Force since July 1, 2002.

"I've been tremendously blessed in my personal and professional life and I owe a great deal to those Air Force leaders, mentors and peers who helped me throughout my career," he said. "I have found that the Air Force has given back to my family and me 10 times what I have given to it, and I am truly grateful."

Chief Murray enlisted in October 1977 from his Boiling Springs, N.C., hometown, but he feels the Air Force will always be something he calls home.

"I'm also grateful to have represented the best enlisted force in the world to our senior leaders, to Congress and to the American public," Chief Murray said. "While my retirement will take me away from active duty status, I will always be an Airman."

Chief Murray's official retirement date is Oct. 1, but a formal ceremony and appointment for the 15th chief master sergeant of the Air Force is planned for June 30.

Babies!

Look who's new in pink, blue

Girls

Delaney Renee Borough was born Nov. 5 to Tech. Sgt. Donelly and Denise Borough, 16th Special Operations Squadron.

Kiara Annise Tomblin was born Nov. 6 to Staff Sgt. Peyton and Jennifer Tomblin, 605th Test and Evaluation Squadron.

Caitlin Marie Greene was born Nov. 8 to Staff Sgt. Randolph and Anna Greene, 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron.

Vanessa Jasmine Damann was born Nov. 8 to Airmen 1st Class Micah Damann, 16th HMXS, and Delia Damann, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Madelyn Esther King was born Nov. 9 to Senior Airman Ryan and

Sheri King, 16th Medical Operations Squadron.

Natalie Amanda Moore was born Nov. 29 to Senior Airman George Moore, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron.

Emma Elizabeth Garcia was born Dec. 21 to Capt. Mari Garcia, 16th SOS, and Army Capt. Brandon Garcia.

Caroline Elizabeth Daley was born Jan. 7 to Staff Sgt. Jeremy and Elizabeth Daley, 16th Security Forces Squadron.

Caroline Rae Pitchlynn was born Jan. 10 to Staff Sgt. Andrew and Kathryn Pitchlynn, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Eileen Grace Lardner was born Jan. 10 to Capt. Christopher and Christy Lardner, 16th Maintenance Group.

Kristen Leah Maquindang was born Jan. 11 to Senior Airman Gerald and Kelley Maquindang, 16th AMXS.

Jorden Marie Guice was born Jan. 13 to Senior Airman Pharaoh and Erica Guice, 16th SFS.

Boys

Braxton Isaiah Reece was born Oct. 31 to Airman 1st Class Loren and Jennifer Reece, 16th AMXS.

Gabriel Aiden Inocentes was born Nov. 2 to Senior Airman Dennis and Sara Inocentes, 16th LRS.

Jacob Edward Shepard was born Nov. 3 to Staff Sgt. Jonathan and Kari Shepard, 16th AMXS.

Elijah Demingo Williams was born Nov. 6 to Staff Sgt. Octavia and Brenton Williams, U. S. Air Force Special Operations School.

Joseph Thomas Taft was born Nov. 10 to Staff Sgt. Sean and Rachel Taft, 16th HMXS.

Nathan Thomas Deam was born Nov. 12 to Army Sgt. 1st Class Sean Deam, and Staff Sgt. Kelly Potter, 16th Medical Support Squadron.

Edward Liam Bobrowski was born Nov. 19 to Maj. Joseph and Suzanne Bobrowski, Air Force Special Operations Command.

Chase Michael Chapman was born Nov. 20 to Staff Sgt. Daniel and Teresa Chapman, 16th MDOS.

Jonas Ramon Prewitt was born Nov. 23 to Tech. Sgt. Victor and Celestina Prewitt, 16th Communications Squadron.

Andrew Michael Horne was born Nov. 29 to Maj. Douglas and Kirstin Horne, 15th SOS.

Paul Robert Costinett was born Dec. 1 to Master Sgt. Paul and Darlene Costinett, 39th Information Operations Squadron.

James Michael Collier was born Jan. 1 to Staff Sgt. James and Alicia Collier, AFSOC.

Benjamin Lewis Palmer was born Jan. 3 to Capt. Steven and Megan Palmer, 4th SOS.

Anthony Jose Pineda was born Jan. 3 to Staff Sgt. Fernando and Katherine Pineda, 823rd RHS.

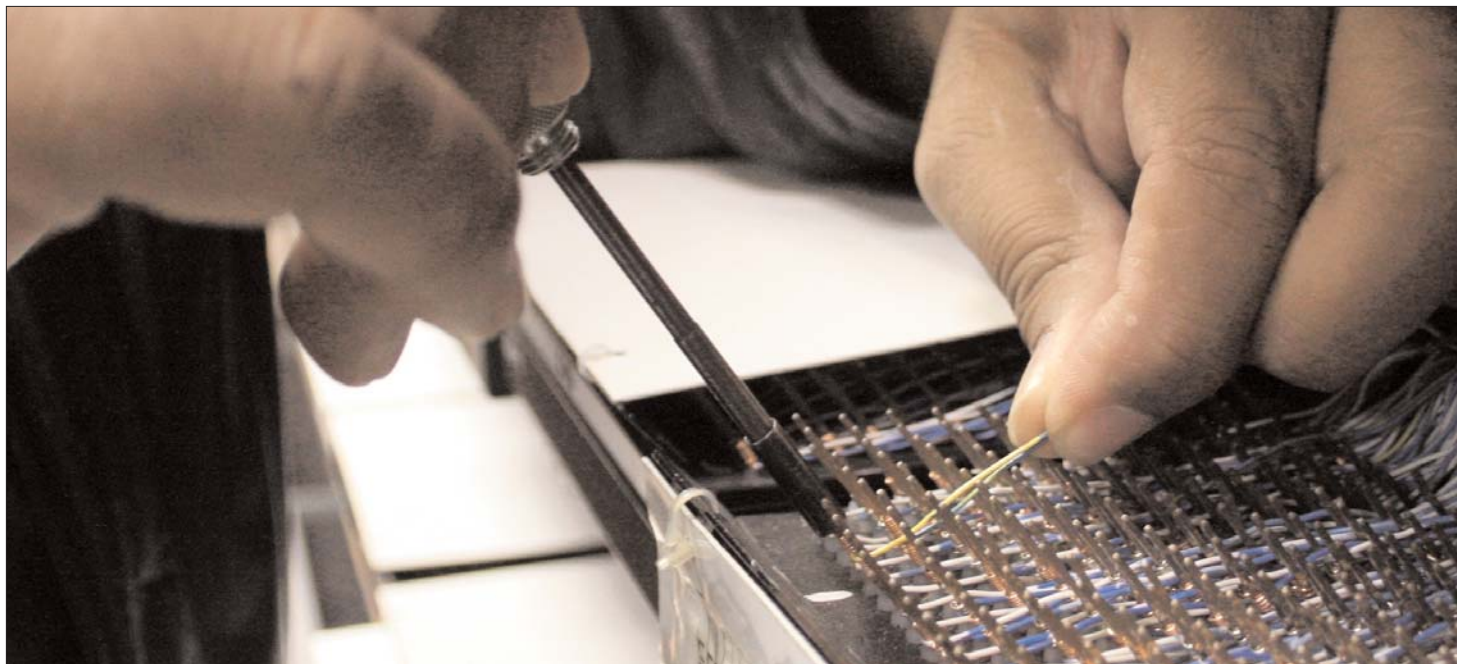
Julian David-Dashawn Jefferson was born Jan. 5 to Staff Sgt. Reginald Jefferson and Senior Airman Shameka Jefferson, 16th CS.

Ethan Scott Crawford was born Jan. 12 to Capt. Jason Crawford, 9th SOS, and Capt. Rhonda Crawford, AFSOC.

CROWN CARPET CLEANERS
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CS/GET RHINO TUF
605813
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Photographs by Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes

Richard Pacheco, cable and telephone mechanic, connects wire pairs on a punch-down block to provide dial tone for a customer at the dial central office Tuesday.

BEWARE OF DAWGS



Chris Natali, telephone and cable maintenance mechanic, molds a cable to fit in a communications manhole.

by Staff Sgt.
Mareshah Haynes
COMMANDO staff

When you pick up your phone in your office, or you log on to your e-mail in the morning, did you ever stop to think, "Who makes this all possible?" You have the telephone/cable maintenance shop, where the workers are affectionately called "wire dawgs" and "cable dawgs," to thank for these capabilities.

The telephone/cable maintenance shop is responsible making sure telephone and data lines are working properly for more than 10,000 customers base wide.

The telephone/cable shop installs telephone and data lines, maintains copper and fiber optic cables in the ground, troubleshoots and repairs telephone problems and maintains the base telephone switch.

For larger projects such as building renovations and new buildings, it coordinates with the planning and implementation flight in the 16th Communications Squadron on how to

get telephone and network connectivity to the buildings.

The base gets telephone dial tone from the dial central office, also known as the base telephone switch. The switch is where all calls into or out of the base go, and then are dispersed throughout the base or to commercial telephone carriers.

Approximately a million calls are routed through the switch each month, said Richard Jones, program manager for cable/telephone shop.

The telephone/cable maintainers have kept the switch running at 100 percent capability for more than 11 years, even through hurricanes, said Jim Brown, telephone and cable maintenance work leader.

Along with the regular maintenance it takes to keep the base's communications lines up and running, the telephone shop handles trouble tickets placed by telephone control officers when users may have problems with their phones or data lines.

The shop receives approximately 20 trouble tickets each

week from the communications control center.

In addition, they receive an average of 30 new work orders per week.

When a trouble ticket is received, a technician will try to troubleshoot the problem over the phone first. If the problem cannot be resolved over the phone, a field technician will go out to see what the problem is.

"We normally complete jobs within two to three weeks of receiving the work order," said Mr. Brown.

By regulation, the shop has 30-45 days to complete a job, depending on its urgency.

Unlike many telephone and cable maintenance shops throughout the Air Force, the telephone/cable maintenance shop here has been manned entirely by civilian contractors for the past seven years.

"I like this job because I get to be outside. It makes me feel like I did something," said Chris Natali, telephone/cable maintenance mechanic. "When you go home at the end of the day you're tired and dirty. It feels good."

Community

Claims

Any persons who have a claim for or against the estate of Maj. Amedeo Garza, 19th Special Operations Squadron, should call Maj. Russell Sullivan at 881-3978 or e-mail russell.sullivan@hurlburt.af.mil.

Free child care

The next "Give Parents a Break" will be held 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Feb. 11 in the family support center. Free child care is provided for eligible families with children 6 months to 12 years old. The program is for qualified spouses of deployed or remote active-duty members or for emergency situations and is sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society. For more information, call 884-5441.

Transition assistance

The Transition Assistance Program seminar is a three-day workshop being held 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and Feb. 21-23 in the family support center. The program helps separating and retiring military members and their families transition into the civilian sector. Facilitators cover career decisions, job applications, job interviews, personal appearance, guidance and support for the transitioning member. For more information, call 884-5441.

Resumé workshop

A resumé writing workshop will be held 1-3 p.m. Monday in the family support center. Information will cover how to translate skills and develop the resumé. Various examples of cover and thank-you letters will be provided. For more information, call 884-5441.

Hearts Apart event

A Hearts Apart event will be held 5:30-7 p.m. Feb. 24 in the family support center. Representatives will teach makeup techniques, and spouses will receive a soothing paraffin hand treatment. Refreshments will be served. The event is limited to the first 30 spouses signed up by Feb. 21. For reservations, call 884-5441.

Keys to relationships

A lunch-and-learn opportunity will be held 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16 and Feb. 23 in the family support center. Bring a lunch and enjoy the educational and entertaining video series by Gary Smalley on understanding and enhancing relationships. For more information, call 884-5441.

Bundles for Babies

Bundles for Babies will be held 9-



Photograph by Master Sgt. Stuart Camp

Spirit lives on

Tech. Sgt. Shane Rainwater, 16th Special Operations Squadron, repeats the name of a Spirit 03 crewmember during a ceremony Tuesday afternoon. Fourteen men from the 16th SOS died Jan. 31, 1991, during a mission in Iraq. "These men answered the call," said Lt. Col. James Marsh, 16th SOS commander, during the ceremony. "We have an obligation to remember them."

11:30 a.m. Feb. 15 in the family support center. Learn information on the developmental stages of an infant from conception through birth and beyond, communication and bonding skills, budgeting information and much more. For more information, call 884-5441.

Career mapping

A class assisting in career and college planning will be held 1-3 p.m. Feb. 27 in the family support center. The class is designed to assist transitioning members or anyone with a career choice. For more information, call 884-5441.

Awards banquet

The 16th Special Operations Wing Annual Awards Banquet will begin at 6 p.m. Feb. 23 in the Emerald Coast Conference Center on Okaloosa Island. Tickets are \$25 per person. The required uniform is mess dress or semi-formal. See unit first sergeants to purchase tickets.

SF banquet

Air Force Special Operations Command Security Forces will honor its annual award winners at 6 p.m. Feb. 23 in The Soundside. All current and former Security Forces, Security Police and Air Police are invited to attend. Reservations must be made by Feb. 15. For more information, call 884-5104.

Squadron briefing

The 6th Special Operations Squadron will conduct a squadron information briefing at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday in the base theater. All military personnel interested in learning about the mission of this unit are invited to attend. For more information, call Capt. Alvin Scott at 884-8281.

Prayer luncheon

The annual national prayer lunch-

eon will begin at 11 a.m. Feb. 22 in The Soundside. The guest speaker will be Fisher DeBerry, Air Force Academy football coach. Tickets are available through first sergeants and the base chapel. For more information, call at 884-7795.

Women's history

The initial planning committee meeting for Hurlburt Field Women's History Month events will be held 11 a.m. – noon Feb. 10 in the military equal opportunity office, room 242, in building 90210. The meeting is open to all volunteers. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Jeannie Crosby at 884-2631.

NAF furniture sale

The Commando Inn will hold a small furnishings sale at 1 p.m. today in building 90345, the visiting Airmen's quarters across from the Aderholt Fitness Center. All items are cash-and-carry. Cash or checks will be accepted. For more information call John Davey at 884-3856.

MOAA

The Military Officer Association of America is offering scholarships to dependent children who are high school seniors or college students working on their first undergraduate degree. For more information, visit www.moaa.org.

Comptroller seminar

The Gulf Coast Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers and the Northwest Florida Chapter of the National Contract Management Association will conduct a professional development seminar March 3 in the Emerald Coast Conference Center. Registration costs \$115 for ASMC/NCMA members, and \$145 for non-members. Register online at: www.gulfcoas-tasmc.org/pds2006/pds_info.htm.

At the movies



Prices are \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children age 6 and older. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field – 884-7648

Friday – Family Stone (PG-13) The Stones, a New England family, have their annual holiday gathering. The eldest son brings his girlfriend home to meet his parents, brothers and sisters.

Saturday – The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe (PG-13) The book tells the story of Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy, who are separated from their parents in London during the German air raids of World War II. They are sent to the country for safety, and find a magic wardrobe that transports them to the mystical world of Narnia, a once peaceful land of talking beasts, dwarfs and giants.

Sunday – Pride & Prejudice (PG) In class-conscious England near the close of the 18th century, the five Bennet sisters – Elizabeth, or Lizzie, Jane, Lydia, Mary and Kitty – have been raised well aware of their mother's fixation on finding them husbands and securing set futures. The spirited and intelligent Elizabeth, however, strives to live her life with a broader perspective, as encouraged by her doting father.

Eglin – 882-1066

Friday – Cheaper By the Dozen 2 (PG) Tom and wife Kate, hoping to bring their family together for a memorable summer vacation, take their 12 offspring to the rustic Lake Winnetka. Their retreat soon becomes cutthroat when they enter into a competition with the over-achieving members of a large family, headed by Tom's long-time rival, Jimmy Muraugh.

Saturday – King Kong (PG-13) While filming on location at the mysterious Skull Island, a group of filmmakers discover a giant gorilla named Kong, living in a massive jungle where creatures from prehistoric times have been protected and hidden for millions of years. A beautiful human woman soothes Kong long enough for him to be subdued and shipped back to New York.

Sunday – Rumor Has It (PG-13) Sarah's life is in a tailspin. She's finally agreed to marry her boyfriend Jeff, but isn't at all sure that marriage is what she really wants. As conflicted as she is about her love life, her professional life isn't much better.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm dates.)

Base chapel



Catholic Mass
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.
Confessions:
Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request
Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday
Religious Education:
September – May

Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (Traditional worship)
11:30 a.m. (Contemporary worship)
Religious Education: August – May
Youth and Singles groups available

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center

Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center
Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

For more information, call 884-7795.

Airmen Against Drunk Driving

For a free, confidential ride home, call AADD at 884-8844. Don't drink and drive.

24-hour Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline:

Hurlburt Field – 884-6322
Air Force – (800) 538-8429
Department of Defense – (800) 424-9098

February is African-American Heritage Month

Calendar of events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
For more information about Hurlburt Field events, call Shirley Sims at 881-5113, for Eglin Air Force Base events, call Maxine Reed at 882-5574, for Duke Field events, call Staff Sgt. Teresa Hoose at 418-2090, for the Essay Contest, call John Armour at 884-3992, for Striving for Perfection Ministries' events, call Robin Thompson at 862-3899 and for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority events, call Lakecia Gunter at 883-3839.			-Proclamation signing at 2 p.m. in the 16th Special Operations Wing conference room -Art & essay contest kickoff			Black history fashion & talent show 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Duke Field
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
AAHM luncheon at 12:30 p.m. at Duke Field	AAHM storytelling for pre-school-age child development center children at 9:30 a.m. in the youth center (Mondays through Fridays until Feb. 24)			-Storytelling for youth ages 5-8 in the School-Age Program at 4 p.m. in the youth center -AAHM luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in the Eglin Air Force Base Officers' Club	COMMANDO newspaper article, "Rosa Parks: Civil rights activist"	Health awareness luncheon at noon at the University of West Florida-Fort Walton Beach campus, sponsored by the AKA Sorority
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	School reading program 9-10:40 a.m. at Eglin (Mondays through Fridays until Feb. 24)		Deadline for the art & essay contest entry	-Storytelling for youth ages 9-12 at 4 p.m. in the youth center -Two-day music workshop at 6:30 p.m. at Striving for Perfection Ministries, 24 Bass Ave. in Fort Walton Beach	AAHM luncheon at 11 a.m. in The Soundside; cost is \$15 for members and \$17 for non-members	-Gospel concert at 6 p.m. at Striving for Perfection Ministries -Two-day AAHM trip to Macon, Ga. For more information, call 882-2650.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			Airmen's Night Out Heritage Storytelling Festival 4-8 p.m. in the base theater	Storytelling for youth ages 9-12 at 4 p.m. in the youth center		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				Gospel concert at 5 p.m. in the Eglin chapel		AAHM food workshop for children ages 5-12 at 3:30 p.m. in the youth center
This year's theme is "Civil Rights ... The Movement – Past, Present, Future"						

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Photograph by Airman 1st Class James Dickens

Chuck Henderson, 16th Medical Group team (number 3), guards Robert Hudson, 16th Maintenance Group team (number 5), during the over-30 basketball game in the Aderholt Fitness Center Tuesday. The medics won the game in overtime, 41-37.

Buzzer beater forces overtime; medics take playoff win 41-37

by Airman 1st Class
James Dickens
Editor

The 16th Medical Group pulled out a 41-37 victory over the 16th Maintenance Group in an over-30 basketball playoff game Tuesday in the Aderholt Fitness Center.

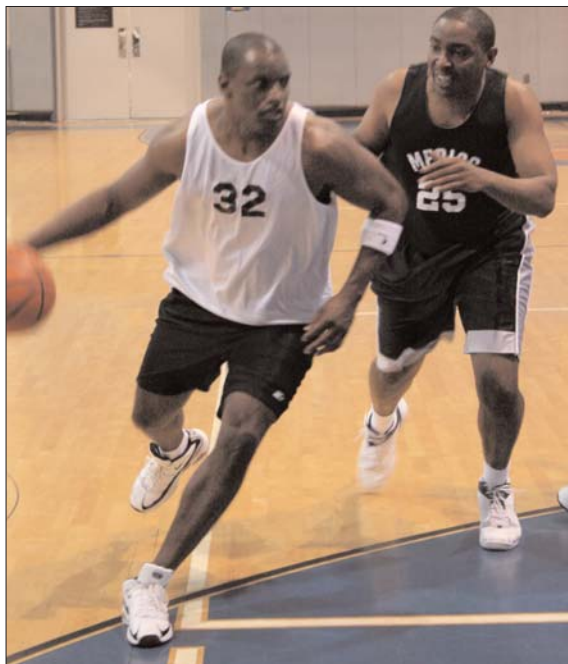
The game, which was neck and neck, came down to a mistake made during an inbound pass with seconds to go.

Maintenance led by four points with less than 20 seconds to play, and the medics scored. The inbound pass was tipped into the air and went right into the hands of Chuck Henderson, 16th MDG team. He caught it in the paint and went right back up with a shot and tied the game at 35 just before the buzzer.

Henderson led the medics in the game with 12 points.

"I tried to get as close as I could and took the shot," said Henderson.

Overtime proved too much for maintenance and the medics pulled away with a three-pointer and an assist to Henderson from Ray Helper, 16th MDG team. Helper fin-



Photograph by Airman 1st Class James Dickens

Louis Koin, 16th MXG team, (number 32) drives past Darnell Newkirk, 16th MDG team. Koin finished with 18 points and Newkirk finished with 10.

ished with eight points.

"We won the first game (against maintenance) on a last-second shot also," said

Helper. "It was a complete team effort. We know where everyone is going to be on the court at all times."

In the bleachers

Okaloosa men's baseball

Registration for the Okaloosa men's baseball league 18-and-over and 30-and-over divisions is at 3 p.m. Feb. 26 at the Twin Oaks baseball field in Niceville. The registration process will include the collection of league fees and a short baseball workout session. League fees are \$155 for 30-and-over players and \$145 for under-30 players.

The games begin April 1 and are played in the Okaloosa County area. For more information, call 864-7529 or visit www.ombl.org.

Youth baseball

Registration for youth baseball, ages 5-14, and girls' softball, ages 10-14, continues through Feb. 10. Cost is \$45 per player or \$90 per family.

All players must have a current physical and birth certificate on file at the youth center by March 10. For more information, call youth sports at 884-6355.

Men's varsity softball

Men's varsity softball tryouts are at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 10-13 on the baseball fields behind the Aderholt Fitness Center. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Charles Shepard at 884-3656 or Senior Master Sgt. Scott Bowen at 884-7421.

Golf tournament

The men's varsity softball team will hold a golf tournament at the Gator Lakes Golf Course Feb. 17. Check-in begins at 7 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. The entry fee is \$40 per person. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Charles Shepard at 884-3656 or Senior Master Sgt. Scott Bowen at 884-7421.

Relay For Life

The American Cancer Society Emerald Coast Area is recruiting teams to participate in Relay For Life – a unique community event that allows individuals from all walks of life to join in the fight against cancer. This year's Navarre Relay For Life will take place April 7-8 at Navarre High School. The kick-off celebration will be held Tuesday. For more information, call 244-3813.

Fit Eagle

The 16th Services Squadron has opened registration for Fit Eagle 2006. Team rosters are due by noon Feb. 23, and the competition takes place Feb. 24 at the Aderholt Fitness Center. There can be up to two teams per squadron, with a limit of 30 teams on base. Teams must have three men – one over 30, one over 40 – and one of any age. Teams must also have two women on their team of any age. A legitimate attempt must be made to find females in your own squadron before recruiting from another squadron. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Tamara Rosa at 884-6884.

Women's varsity softball

Women's varsity softball tryouts at 5 p.m. Feb. 14-17 on Commando Field 1 behind the Aderholt Fitness Center. For more information call Tech. Sgt. Bernice Stoffel.

Rugby season

Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base are looking for players for Rugby season. For more information call Lt. Col. John Colletta at 882-2191.

Sports standings

For more information on sports standings, call the Aderholt Fitness Center at 884-6884.

Over-30 basketball

Team	W	L
MDG	8	2
RHS	8	2
MXG	7	3
AFSOC	7	3
LRS	6	4
CMS	5	5
505 1	4	6
COMM	4	6
SVS	4	6
505 2	2	8
39 IOS	0	10

Intramural basketball

National League		
Team	W	L
AMXS 1	10	0
RHS	6	2
EMS 1	7	3
DET 3	5	4
SVS	5	4
MDG 2	6	6
AMXS2	3	6
23 STS	2	7
AFSOC	2	8

Varsity basketball

Current as of Wednesday

Team	W	L
Moody	15	7
Tyndall	15	7
Robins	12	8
Eglin	9	11
Macdill	7	13
Mayport	7	13
Hurlburt Field	7	13

American League

Team	W	L
MDG 1	7	1
CES	6	3
25 IOS	5	4
LRS	5	4
OSS	4	4
COMM 1	4	5
SFS	4	5
HMXS	5	